Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

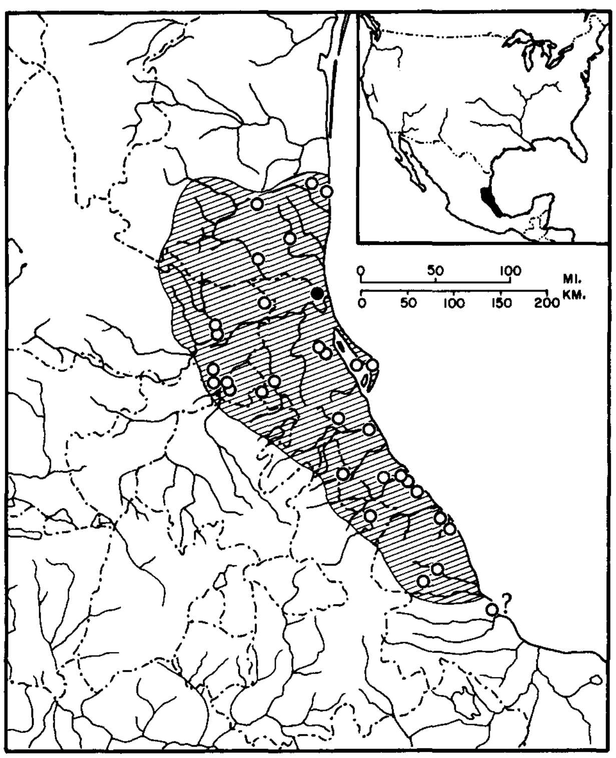
BERRY, JAMES F., AND JOHN B. IVERSON. 1980. *Kinosternon herrerai.*

Kinosternon herrerai Stejneger
Herrera's mud turtle

Kinosternon herrerai Stejneger, 1925:462. Type-locality, "Xochimilco, Valley of Mexico" (in error), restricted to "La Laja, Veracruz [Mexico]" by Smith and Taylor (1950), and later to "Tampico" by Smith and Brandon (1968). Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus., 61249, an adult male collected (date unknown) by Dr. A. L. Herrera (examined by the authors).

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION. Adult males are 120 to 170 mm in carapace length, females 110 to 150 mm. The adult carapace has a single median keel, usually obscure in older adults. Juveniles (to 57 mm) have two additional low dorsolateral keels. Hatchlings are unknown. The first vertebral scute is very narrow and does not contact the second marginal; the tenth and eleventh marginals are elevated above the ninth marginal. At least three vertebral scutes are as wide or wider than long. The carapace is brown to olive with dark seams. The axillary scute always contacts the inguinal. The plastron has two freely kinetic hinges bordering the abdominal scutes. The gular scute is almost always less than half the length of the anterior plastral lobe. The interpectoral seam length is less than 10% of the maximum plastron length. The interabdominal seam is 20–30% of the maximum plastron length, and is shorter than either plastral lobe. The plastron of adults is notched posteriorly and is yellow to light brown, often with darker seams. The skin is gray-brown to yellow, the limbs darkly spotted. The head is marked dorsally and laterally with brown spots or reticulations: ventrally it is nearly immaculate. The jaws are streaked with brown and the adult beak is strongly hooked. The dorsal head shield is forked posteriorly. Two pairs of chin barbels are present; a larger, anterior pair immediately behind the mandibular symphysis, and a slightly smaller posterior pair even with the tympanum. Females have short stubby tails. Males have long, thick tails with terminal spines, and a patch of tuberculate scales on the posterior surface of each thigh and crus.



MAP. The solid circle marks the restricted type-locality; open circles indicate other locality records.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Descriptions are in Shannon and Smith (1949), Poglayen and Smith (1958), Poglayen (1965), Williams and Wilson (1965), and Pritchard (1967, 1969). Musk glands are described by Waagen (1972).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs appear in Rust (1938), Shannon and Smith (1950), Poglayen and Smith (1958), Casas Andreu (1967), and Pritchard (1969). Line drawings appear in Wermuth and Mertens (1961).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Kinosternon herrerai* occurs in eastern Mexico in the states of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo, and Puebla. It is confined to Gulf of Mexico drainages between and including at least the basins of the Río Tamesí in Tamaulipas and the Río Actopan in Veracruz. It does not occur naturally in the Valley of Mexico, the originally stated type locality. Smith and Brandon (1968) suggested that the types were probably purchased in the markets of Tampico.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. There are no accounts of the biology of *Kinosternon herrerai.* Important references are: dimensions, Shannon and Smith (1949[1950]) and Pritchard (1969); osteology, Pritchard (1969); choanal structure, Parsons (1968); habits in captivity, Poglayen (1965); longevity, Mariani (1935); exploitation by man, Pritchard (1969) and Mittermeier (1971); and distribution, Shannon and Smith (1949[1950]), Martin, Robins and Heed (1954), Poglayen and Smith (1958), Williams and Wilson (1965), Casas Andreu (1967), Webb, Baker and Dalby (1967), Smith and Brandon (1968), Pritchard (1969), Reese (1971), and Iverson and Berry (In Press).

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *herrerai* honors Dr. Alfonso L. Herrera, past director of the National Museum of Mexico, who donated the type specimen.

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